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NPIC/TSSG/DED-1558-69
27 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services & Support Group, NPIC

SUBJECT : Automatic Reporting Techniques & Equipment Study,
Results & Recommendations

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results to date of the Automatic Reporting Techniques and Equipment Study and to request concurrence with the recommendations contained in Paragraph 8.

2. In January 1967, the Development Objectives for an Automatic Reporting Techniques and Equipment Study were distributed to several NPIC Divisions for their comments. The contracting of this study was strongly opposed by two Divisions largely on the basis that a previously contracted study would provide data that would duplicate information to be provided in the proposed study. This viewpoint was not shared by DED (then TDS) and Graphics Branch of PSG/RD (then PD) and it was mutually agreed to pursue the study as an in-house NPIC effort. [redacted] of TSSG were thus given the responsibility of carrying out the Reporting Techniques and Equipment Study.

3. The study was divided into three main categories: (a) graphics, (b) typesetting, and (c) entry, edit and approval. The latter category (c), was assumed to be adequately covered by the previously contracted study and little effort was initially devoted to this area.

4. The typesetting portion (b) of this study resulted in a published report and in the ultimate procurement of a Photon 713-20 photo typesetter by PSG. The selection of this equipment was made only after an extensive cost analysis of three alternate typesetting systems was performed.

5. In an analysis of the graphics requirements (c), calendar year 1967 graphics production figures were accumulated for all NPIC components. Based on these figures, it was estimated that approximately [redacted] per year could be saved by the Center if an automated graphics system could reduce the time spent in producing perspectives and rectified installation plots. A search was made for a system which could accomplish the desired automation. The intent was to produce a production oriented system which could be mastered by any illustrator with only a few hours of instruction. However, when such an automated graphics system was proposed, to PSG and IEG, they did not feel that such a system was required.

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6. DED believes that such a system is needed and would be an aid in producing graphics at a lower cost. However, the lack of support by the operating Divisions would severely impede the operational integration of an automated graphics system. Therefore, while the development of such a system might be a great technical success, it could at the same time be an operational failure. As a consequence, DED can no longer afford to devote the additional manpower time to this phase of the study and regrettably we will have to discontinue the development of this system.

7. Continued efforts in the Automatic Reporting Techniques and Equipment Study will concentrate on future reporting techniques and graphics production. This will be a low-keyed, effort aimed at entirely new techniques that bear little or no relationship to present production procedures.

8. It is recommended that:

a. The effort to develop an operational automated graphics system should be discontinued.

b. PSG and IEG should be notified of Development & Engineering Division's action in discontinuing further work on an operational automated graphics system. It should be emphasized that the DED decision is one of reluctance and is prompted by the lack of interest and/or support from these Groups.

c. The Automatic Reporting Techniques and Equipment Study should continue its efforts to seek new, long term solutions to graphics and reporting problems.

[Redacted]
Chief, Development & Engineering Division,
TSSG

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